

We claim:

1. A compact and tabletop system for applying fast drying permanent graphics up to approximately 360 degrees around an object having a pre printed, non-planar,
5 textured and irregular surface at a single station, comprising:
a fixture for receiving , holding and rotating said object about a second and third axis having the non-planar, textured and irregular surface;
an indicia generating unit with an input for receiving indicia, a means to generate and manipulate indicia and an output for applying the indicia to the non-planar
10 textured and irregular surface, of said object; and
a control unit for controlling the quantity of objects to be printed and movement of said object relative to the indicia-generating unit so that the object is maintained at a fixed position relative to the output of the indicia-generating unit,
whereby indicia is applied along the non-planar, irregular and textured surface of
15 said object by positioning said object relative to the indicia-generating unit, wherein the fixture, the indicia generating unit, the control unit are located at a single station.
2. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a housing for supporting the system and receiving payment from at least one of cash
20 and a credit card to pay for a printing.
3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said indicia includes: graphics.
4. The system according to claim 1, wherein said indicia includes: text.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein said object includes: a ball.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein said object includes: a golf ball.

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7. The system according to claim 1, wherein said indicia is applied at a polar location, at two polar locations, and / or in a band around the perimeter of said object.

8. The system according to claim 1, wherein said fixture comprises a gimbal assembly.

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9. The system according to claim 1, wherein said system is a free standing vending machine.

10. The system according to claim 1, wherein the indicia includes a source from a permanent, fast drying multi colored ink via an inkjet cartridge.

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11. The system according to claim 8, wherein said fixture comprises a rotatable and elevatable turntable-carriage whereby said object is mounted and transported to the gimbal assembly.

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12. The system according to claim 1, further including a personal computer.

13. The system according to claim 1, further including a bill acceptor.

14. A compact single station apparatus for receiving digital images and printing permanent multi-colored graphics on an object with a non planar, textured and irregular surface comprising:
- an indicia-generating unit;
- 5 a positioning means for clamping and positioning said object under the indicia-generating unit to avoid areas with pre printed indicia;
- a control unit for controlling said object relative to the indicia-generating unit so that said object is maintained at a fixed position relative to the output of the indicia-generating unit while rotating the object about a second and third axis;
- 10 a support with a base on which said object is mounted; and
- a transfer means for moving the support and base on which said object is mounted in order to position said object under the indicia generating unit, wherein the indicia-generating unit, the positioning means, the control unit, the support and the transfer means are within a single station.
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15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said indicia generating unit is comprised of at least one multi- color inkjet cartridge with fast drying permanent ink .
16. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said positioning means is a gimbal
- 20 assembly for rotation about a second and third axis.
17. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said positioning means secures, positions, and rotates said object with the non planar, textured irregular surface about a second and third axis at a fixed uniform distance under said indicia-generating unit.

18. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said transfer means is a rotatable and elevatable table for moving said object with curved surface under said indicia-generating unit in such a manner as to avoid preprinted areas.

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19. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said control unit receives the output of a personal computer.

20. The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said computer receives input via a floppy disk containing digital images.

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21. A method of applying graphics to an object having non-planar, textured and irregular surfaces at a single station, comprising:
receiving and holding said object having non-planar, textured and irregular surfaces at one station;
receiving graphics data to be applied to the non-planar, textured and irregular surfaces of said object at the one station;
moving said object relative to an indicia-generating unit so that said object is maintained at a fixed distance to the output of said indicia-generating unit at the one station;
applying permanent graphics using an inkjet cartridge, to the non-planar surface of said object at the one station.

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22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the holding comprises clamping said
object in a gimbal mount.
23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the moving comprises rotating and
5 pivoting said object in a gimbal mount.
24. The method according to claim 21, wherein the applying of the graphics includes
applying a band of graphics around the perimeter of said object.
- 10 25. The method according to claim 21, wherein the applying of the graphics comprises
applying a single color of the graphics to the object.
26. The method according to claim 21, wherein step of applying of the graphics
comprises applying the graphics in more than one color.
- 15 27. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of receiving and holding said
object comprises rotating and elevating said object on a turntable-carriage at the one
station.
- 20 28. The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of applying of graphic comprises
a means to select various indicia, position the indicia into a template and manipulate
the images to meet a users preference.

29. An apparatus for printing graphics on an object with a non planar, textured and irregular surface at a single station comprising:
- a support base;
 - an indicia-generating unit comprised of two inkjet cartridge;
 - 5 a gimbaled mounting apparatus comprising:
 - a frame:
 - a clamping means for securing said object within said frame;
 - a rotating means for rotationally driving said object about a first axis;
 - a support means for supporting said frame at a pair of support points orthogonal to
 - 10 said first axis defining a second axis;
 - a pivoting means for pivotally driving said frame about said second axis;
 - whereby said object is rotationally and pivotally positioned below said indicia generating unit at a fixed distance from said indicia generating unit;
 - a control unit for controlling said object relative to the indicia-generating unit so that
 - 15 said object is maintained at a fixed position relative to the output of the indicia-generating unit, wherein the frame, the clamping means, the rotating means, the support means, and the pivoting means are located at a single station..